



friday, november 15, 2013

Bill Snyder Family Stadium, Saturday @ 2:30 p.m.
K-STATE VS. TCU

the**collegian**
GAMEDAYGUIDE



ONE
MORE
STEP

K-State Wildcats
aim to win next
game, get closer to
bowl eligibility

Jed Barker | Collegian
K-State sophomore quarterback Daniel Sams high steps to avoid being tackled by Baylor's defense at Bill Snyder Family Stadium on Oct. 12.

Gameday Weather
Forecast:

High: 67 °F
Low: 48 °F



4 Heisman
Watch:
Oregon quarterback
Mariota is out as our writer
narrows to the final four

3 TCU
Preview:
Despite early season
struggles, the Frogs will be
a tough challenger

8 Powercat
Profile:
Cornerback Dorri-
an Roberts has proven his
worth for the Wildcats

By the numbers: K-State plays tough in fourth quarter

Brandon Painter
staff writer

6

The number of times the Wildcats have faced off against the Horned Frogs since 1922.

The series is tied at 3-3, with TCU winning three of the last four. The Wildcats are 2-1 in Manhattan against the Horned Frogs, while TCU is 2-1 at home in Fort Worth, Texas.

1983

The year that TCU head coach Gary Patterson graduated from Kansas State University.

The winningest coach in Texas Christian University's history, Gary Patterson, will return to his alma mater for the first time as head coach of the Horned Frogs. Patterson is a former safety and linebacker for the Wildcats.

.808

At 21-5, TCU has the nation's fourth-best road record since 2009.

Over the last couple of years, the Horned Frogs have been deadly away from home. TCU has won 17 of its last 21 conference road games. However, the Horned Frogs haven't visited Manhattan since the year the Royals won the World Series. This was during a period of time in

which K-State nearly always lost. In fact, from 1985 to 1989, the Wildcats only won three games.

10.5

The number of sacks DE Ryan Mueller has recorded during this season

Mueller is tied for first in the nation with Louisville's Marcus Smith. The junior from Leawood, Kan. has 45 tackles, and 15 tackles for loss, currently placing him second in the nation. Oh, and he's 14th in forced fumbles, with three. Not bad for a walk-on.

56-14

The scoring margin for the Wildcats in the fourth quarter since falling to 2-4 early on.

After leading late in three of the Wildcats' four losses, head coach Bill Snyder said that the team needed to finish games "better." Boy, have they.

10

The number of times that K-State quarterback Daniel Sams has found his way to the end zone on the ground.

The dynamic quarterback has rushed for 675 yards. Sams is the only quarterback on the top-10 chart and is tied for second in rushing touchdowns. Only Baylor's prolific junior running back Lache Seastrunk has more with 11.



Emily DeShazer | Collegian
K-State junior defensive end Ryan Mueller leads the Wildcats and the nation in sacks while also placing near the top in tackles for a loss and forced fumbles.

Collegian Staff Pick ‘em



Emily DeShazer
photo editor

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TCU's defense strong again, offense not as much

Spencer Low
staff writer

This season was supposed to be a big step forward for TCU after the team finished seventh in the Big 12 in its inaugural season in the league. Going into this weekend's matchup with K-State though, TCU finds itself right where last season left off: seventh place in the Big 12. The Horned Frogs' 4-6 overall record and 2-5 mark in conference play makes many wonder what happened to the team that was picked to finish third in the league and earned nine first-place votes went.

On offense, TCU has settled on a system that bears similarities to K-State, running out different quarterbacks in different situations. Senior Casey Pachall missed most of last season, and returned in 2013 as the Horned Frogs' starter, but a broken arm on September 7th caused him to miss more playing time. Sophomore Trevone Boykin, who started in his absence last season, did so once again this year, and has still had an important role now that Pachall is healthy.

Of the two, Pachall is the pure passer, while Boykin brings incredible mobility and athleticism that few quarterbacks in the college football can match, but his arm leaves something to be desired. Patterson likes to play both at the position in different circumstances, and, well, stop me if this all sounds a little familiar.

TCU has taken this two quarterback system one step farther than K-State has, as Boykin has found himself lining up at wide receiver on some plays and now has 20 catches for 165 yards on the season to go along with 303 yards rushing and 1176 yards passing. Boykin has accounted for 11 touchdowns this season, six on the ground and five through the air.

Pachall has thrown for 953 yards with three touchdowns and six interceptions this season, averaging just over 190 passing yards per game, but unlike Boykin, he is not a threat at all with his legs with a total of four rushing yards in 2013.

The Horned Frogs will likely be starting a backup at running back: sophomore Aaron Green. Green rushed for a career-high 72 yards last week Iowa State and Patterson has stated that Green will probably start against the Wildcats. TCU's normal two starters at the position are both doubtful to play: senior Waymon James is suspended after violating team rules and sophomore B.J. Catalon is injured. Neither player made the trip to Iowa State last week.

Catalon is the team's leading rusher with 405 yards and has five touchdowns, while James is third with 242 and four touchdowns.

On defense, the Horned Frogs pose a serious threat to K-State's run-first offense, boasting the best rushing defense in the Big 12 and third-best total defense in the conference.

The defense has plenty of play-makers, starting with their linebacker corps. Junior Paul Dawson leads the team with 75 tackles and sophomore Chris Hackett is right behind him with 74. Dawson also has nine tackles for loss, while Hackett has picked off three passes so far this season, tying him for first on the team.

The secondary has a couple big name players in it, starting with senior Jason Verrett. The senior cornerback is currently nursing an injury and may not play, which would be a huge benefit to the Wildcats, but when he is on the field, he makes opposing offenses plan around him. Verrett was named a third team All-American by the AP last season and was named a first team All-American by Sports Illustrated. His six interceptions was tops in the Big 12 and he was second nationally with 1.69 passes defended per game. This year, his numbers are slightly less gaudy, with two interceptions and 14 passes defended.

Starting opposite to Verrett is junior cornerback Kevin White, who has three picks and defended 10 passes this year.

Joining them in a stacked secondary is junior safety Sam Carter. Carter is tied for first on the team with four sacks, adding in three interceptions and 6.5 tackles for



photo courtesy of Maddi Bruton | TCU 360

TCU quarterback Trevone Boykin escapes two Oklahoma State defenders in the second half on Oct. 19 at Boone Pickens Stadium in Stillwater, Okla. The Frogs lost to the Cowboys 24-10.

loss along with his 37 tackles. Carter was named to the All-Big 12 Second Team by both the Big 12 coaches and the AP for his 2012 campaign.

As a team, the Horned Frogs have 17 interceptions, which is tied for fourth in the nation and leads the Big 12.

Gary Patterson's teams have always been strong on defense, leading the Big 12 in total defense last season and ranking at or near the top almost every season under Patterson as a member of the Mountain West in past seasons.

While TCU has failed to live up to expectations this season, they

are still a good team that uses a great defense to hang in there with the best of the Big 12. They will not underperform forever, and opposing teams should be nervous for when the offense starts to click and the team finds the form many thought they would display all season.

Analyzing TCU



Emilio Rivera

In their second season in the Big 12 conference, the TCU Horned Frogs seem to be ready to take over where the Colorado Buffaloes left off when they left for the PAC-12. At a combined 11-12 record since joining the conference, the Horned Frogs are lack-luster compared to the team that went into seven straight bowl games, going an impressive 77-13 that included a Rose Bowl win over Wisconsin before joining the conference. At 4-6, with only two games remaining, the Horned Frogs are on the verge of missing the bowl season for the first time since the 2004 season.

A 1983 graduate of K-State, Horned Frogs coach Gary Patterson will coach for the first time in Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

"This is the first time I'll be back in 30 years," said Patterson in his weekly press conference. "I don't think I'll have time to worry about it,

except for probably standing before the game and maybe after the game."

Lets start with the good for the Horned Frogs, their defense.

Statistically, the Horned Frogs defense rank among the best in all of college football, what they do well is capitalize on mistakes. As a defense, the Horned Frogs are sixth in the nation with 25 forced turnovers. Now add this with the fact that they are fourth in the country with 17 interceptions and 23rd in the country with eight forced fumbles, they are one of the best defenses that the Wildcats will face.

"They play well against the pass," said K-State coach Bill Snyder at the weekly press conference. "All their stats defensively are in the top echelon of the nation, as well as the conference"

The defense is also good at stopping the run, they rank 19th in the nation in that stat, allowing only 125.2 yards per game.

The Horned Frogs' defense is led by junior linebacker Paul Dawson. Dawson leads the team with 75 tackles and nine tackles for loss. He is a force in the middle of the field for the Horned Frogs, adding a powerful presence to the Frogs' run and pass



photo courtesy of Maddi Bruton | TCU 360

TCU running back Aaron Green takes a handoff from quarterback Trevone Boykin. Green is the Horned Frogs' third-string back, but will have to carry the load against the Wildcats after injuries to the top two runners on the depth chart.

defense.

Another name to remember on this stout Horned Frogs defense is sophomore safety Chris Hackett. In only

his second year with the Horned Frogs, Hackett is second on the team in tackles with 74. He makes his name be heard in the passing game

as well, accounting for three interceptions and two sacks. To add to that impressive resume, Hackett leads the team with three forced fumbles. The Horned Frogs, who already are in a predicament with injuries in the secondary, are going to have to rely on Hackett to make plays against a talented Wildcat offense.

With last years Big 12 defensive freshman of the year Devonte Fields out for the rest of the season, the defensive line is anchored by junior defensive end Chucky Hunter. Hunter leads the defensive line with 37 tackles, five and a half tackles for loss, and two sacks. Hunter is a leader on the line, and will provide stiff competition to the Wildcat's offensive line.

Since we have went over what keeps the Horned Frogs competitive, lets transition into the downside for this team, the offense.

All season a debate --that seems common throughout the Big 12-- has been raging in Fort Worth, should the Horned Frogs stick with quarterback Casey Pachall, who missed most of last season after getting charged with a DWI and entered inpatient rehab. The other choice for the Horned Frogs, Trevone Boykin, is a dual threat quar-

terback, but has limits to his accuracy.

It seems as if the Horned Frogs are adamant to play Pachall, even after missing five games earlier this season because of an injury. Pachall's numbers aren't great, with only 953 yards on five games this season Pachall seems not to be on the same pace in which he was before his DWI incident.

The Horned Frogs' rushing game --when not on Boykin's shoulders, who has 303 yards on 97 carries-- lies on the shoulders of third-string running back sophomore Aaron Green. Green, because of injuries to leading back sophomore B.J. Catalon and senior Waymon James, will have to face the strong Wildcat defense.

Sophomores Josh Doctson and LaDarius Brown are both deep threats for Pachall. Doctson leads the team with 337 yards on 24 attempts, while Brown has 322 yards on 32 attempts.

The Horned Toads are 3-3 all time versus the Wildcats, being only 1-2 in Manhattan. The Wildcats won last years meeting between the two schools, 23-10.

Emilio River is a freshman in pre-journalism. Please send all comments to sports@kstatecollegian.com.

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Heisman Watch: Race narrows to final four players



Week 11 saw one player's Heisman hopes fade away to the same team for the second year in a row. Sorry, Marcus Mariota — there's always next year. The rest of the serious contenders kept pace, leaving the Oregon quarterback in the dust of the Heisman and national title races.

1. Jameis Winston (QB, Florida State) — At this point, Winston's stats are less important than the fact that the Seminoles remain undefeated. Blowing out lesser opponents in the process doesn't hurt, either. The redshirt freshman guided the No. 2 Seminoles to a 59-3 win against Wake Forest, throwing for 159 yards in two-plus quarters of playing time. Winston's next two Saturdays could be shortened as well, with home games against Syracuse (5-4, 3-2) and Idaho (1-9) to make sure the Heisman contender is 100-percent healthy for the Seminoles regular season concluding match-up with Florida in Gainesville, Fla. If the Seminoles roll through the Gators, like I expect them to, then the ACC Championship game would be their final hurdle in the race towards the BCS National Championship. The ACC's Coastal division is still jumbled up with teams like Georgia Tech, Virginia Tech, Duke, and Miami all sitting

with two conference losses, while North Carolina and Pittsburgh each have three losses.

2. Bryce Petty (QB, Baylor) — The benefit of playing on Thursday nights, especially on a night on which the Minnesota Vikings and Washington Redskins are the NFL game, is the national exposure your program and top players receive. That is, if they perform. Petty and the Bears did just that, routing Oklahoma last Thursday in a 41-12 win. Petty, despite a slow start, directed the win without star running back junior Lache Seastrunk and his speedy receiver senior Tevin Reese. The junior quarterback accounted for five touchdowns — three in the air and two on the ground — as he aired it out for 204 yards and legged out another 45 yards on the ground, all without committing a turnover. Currently, the No. 5 Bears (8-0, 5-0) are on the outside looking in for the BCS National Championship. They sit behind one-loss Stanford and undefeated Ohio State, Florida State and Alabama. Petty could still come away with the ultimate individual hardware, though, if he can guide the Bears through the their remaining schedule, starting with Texas Tech, a team desperate to end a three-game losing streak. Then they'll see road matchups with No. 12 Oklahoma State and TCU in back-to-back weekends before ending the season with a Dec. 7 battle, likely for the Big 12 title, with a revived No. 24 Texas.

3. A.J. McCarron (QB, Alabama) — How's the saying go? Roll Tide? Well that's precisely what the McCarron-led Alabama squad has continued to do, win-

ning its last seven games by at least 21 points. Most recently, McCarron navigated a 38-17 win against LSU during which the senior quarterback completed 14-of-20 pass attempts for three touchdowns. With a road-win against Johnny Manziel's Texas A&M Aggies on this year's Heisman resume, and the possibility of a third BCS National Championship in a row being inked next to his name, McCarron is now in the thick of the Heisman conversations. Unless the No. 1 ranked Tide trips up against Mississippi State on the road or loses to Chattanooga — a sure sign of the apocalypse — McCarron's biggest test will be a Nov. 30 road-matchup with No. 7 Auburn, followed, if Alabama wins, by the SEC Championship game.

4. Johnny Manziel (QB, Alabama) — Even if no one in front of Manziel loses, I hope the reigning Heisman winner gets an invite to New York in December. It's the least they could do for a guy cursed with a terrible defense. Manziel's latest example — 30 for 39 for 446 yards, five touchdowns and three interceptions — in the Aggies' 51-41 win against Mississippi State is just the latest display of how valuable Manziel really is. The sophomore is second in the NCAA in total offense, behind only SMU's Garrett Gilbert, with 392.4 yards per game, which has helped the Aggies overcome an 89th ranked defense in points per game allowed in all but two games. Manziel could greatly help his chances to receive a Heisman finalist invitation with road wins against No. 21 LSU and No. 9 Missouri to end the regular season.



Jed Barker | Collegian
Baylor junior quarterback Bryce Petty throws the ball at this year's game against K-State in Bill Snyder Family Stadium on Oct. 12.

Big 12 predictions: Despite early indicators, Mountaineers set to beat Jayhawks

Ethan Blouin
staff writer



Iowa State Cyclones vs. Oklahoma Sooners

11 a.m. CDT, Fox Sports 1
Both of these teams are coming off of disappointing games, but in very different ways. Oklahoma was blown out in their showdown with Baylor last Thursday. After the first quarter of that game, it was all Baylor. Iowa State looked like they would end a five-game losing streak last week, until TCU scored a touchdown with 38 seconds left.

To say Iowa State's year has been frustrating would be an understatement. After dropping that questionable game against Texas, the Cyclones have been beaten by an average of 28 points per game. Their defense, which

had become a strength over the past couple of years, has regressed, and they are now the 115th ranked scoring defense.

In their matchup with Baylor, Oklahoma's lack of a run defense showed. Baylor's third string running back, redshirt freshman Shock Linwood, ran for 182 yards last Thursday. The Oklahoma offense has had a rough year as well, at least compared to most years. They're averaging a little more than 28 points a game, just 68th in the nation. Oklahoma has been good in coming off of losses under Bob Stoops, and that is not going to change this week.

Prediction: Oklahoma 38 Iowa State 10



West Virginia Mountaineers vs. Kansas Jayhawks
11 a.m. CDT

This has been labeled as one of the games that Kansas could win this year. But based on how West Virginia played last week, it doesn't look that way anymore.

Kansas has shown improvement this year, but they have still lost every Big 12 game by at least 10 points. Look for both quarterbacks, freshman Montell Cozart and junior Jake Heaps, to get snaps for KU, and for senior running back James Sims to get a lot of touches.

West Virginia gave Texas all it wanted last week before falling to them in overtime. West Virginia is in a rebuilding year, and has also had some trouble with the quarterback position. Their starter, junior Clint Trickett suffered an injury last week. However, the West Virginia defense might be the most improved unit in the Big 12. West Virginia needs to win their last two games to become bowl eligible, and after this week they'll only need one more win.

Prediction: West Virginia 31 Kansas 14



Oklahoma State Cowboys vs. Texas Longhorns

2:30 P.M. CDT, FOX
This is the biggest game in the Big 12 this week. It has major conference championship implications. The winner has an inside track to the conference title and the Fiesta Bowl bid as both teams still have Baylor on the schedule.

This game will be a great test for Texas' defense. The Cowboys, known for their passing game, have had great success on the ground this year. As most of the nation knows, Texas was destroyed by BYU and Ole' Miss on the ground in their two losses. If Texas is going to win this game, they will have to stop the run.

Oklahoma State has got to be wondering what if. After dropping a head scratcher to West Virginia, they have taken care of business the rest of the

year. It looks like senior Clint Chelf has taken over the quarterback position for good, and under him the offense has caught a spark. This game is the start of a brutal three-game stretch for the Cowboys. After this, they still have Baylor and Oklahoma on the schedule. A win in this game for the Cowboys would set up a showdown with Baylor next week.

Prediction: Oklahoma State 38 Texas 27



Texas Tech Red Raiders vs. Baylor Bears

6 P.M. CDT, FOX
This rivalry game will be played in Dallas, Texas at AT&T Stadium. If you like offense, it'll be one you'll want to watch. We all know what Baylor's offense has done this year, and Texas Tech has some very good weapons on the offensive side of the ball

as well.

After their 7-0 start, Texas Tech has come down to earth the last three games, which has cost this game a little bit of luster. The Texas Tech defense has been very bad against the run lately. They have given up over 250 yards rushing to each of their last three opponents. Whoever is in the backfield for Baylor could have a very big day.

Coming off of their dismantling of Oklahoma last Thursday, Baylor is about to get into the meat of their schedule. The way Baylor ran the ball last week was very impressive. Look for them to try to establish the run a lot against this shaky Texas Tech defense. This has big numbers for junior running back Lache Seastrunk written all over it — if he's healthy. Baylor has to make sure they're focused on this week and not the Oklahoma State game next week. Don't rule out some trickery from Texas Tech head coach Kliff Kingsbury.
Prediction: Baylor 52 Texas Tech 31

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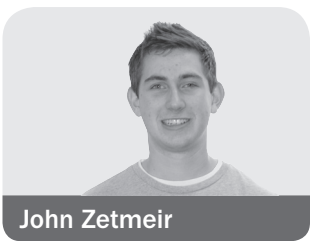
John Zetmeir

Midway through the season, K-State looked like they were destined for a bowl-less season. Now, the Wildcats are one of the hottest teams in the league looking to become bowl eligible tomorrow. Even though there was a lot of hype surrounding TCU coming into the season, they have continued to struggle against Big 12 competition. The two-quarterback system, which was once a two-headed monster for the Wildcats has now become a two-headed monster for opposing teams. TCU's defense will have their hands full with quarterbacks Jake Waters and Daniel Sams this weekend.



John Zetmeir

If we are talking defense, K-State's has to get the nod at this point in time. With the absence of Devonte Fields, TCU's defense has taken a big hit. The Wildcats have one of the most experienced and talented offensive lines in all of the Big 12 and they are finally playing like it. Guys like BJ Finney and Cornelius Lucas have taken great strides in the past few weeks to make the job of whoever is playing quarterback a lot simpler. Without Fields, getting to K-State's quarterbacks will not be easy. Like you said, the magic number for K-State might be 20 because TCU may have one of the worst offenses in the conference.



John Zetmeir

TCU's defense has not missed a step, but there is no question that it has more potential with a healthy Fields. Either way, it does not matter how good a team's defense is if their offense cannot score points. This young Wildcat defense has steadily improved every week and for the most part have played well this season. Holding Texas and Oklahoma State on the road to less than 35 points is an impressive feat for a unit with nine new starters. With Ryan Mueller coming off of two consecutive Big 12 defensive player of the week awards, he has become a nightmare for quarterbacks. One person who will be K-State's X-factor is wide receiver Tyler Lockett. Many people around the league know him for his return abilities but he is also one of the most talented receivers in the Big 12. Lockett will help lead the Wildcats to bowl eligibility tomorrow.

K-State has certainly turned things around, putting together a three-game winning streak. Meanwhile the Horned Frogs have definitely struggled, but I would attribute that to personnel losses more so than better competition. Like you said, the two-quarterback system is working for the Wildcats. However, Sams and Waters will be facing one of the best defenses in the conference in TCU. The Frogs rank first in the Big 12 in interceptions (17) and third in sacks (28). Whoever is taking the snaps for K-State needs to be careful throwing against this defense. But we all know the Wildcats want to run the ball more than anything — they ran it 45 times against Texas Tech. But TCU ranks first in the Big 12 in rushing defense, too. The good news for K-State is that the TCU offense is so anemic that if the Wildcats can score 20 points, they are almost guaranteed a win.



Matt Jennings

That argument would hold a little more weight if Fields had been on the field for more than a game and a half this season, or if he had been more effective when he was playing; his season ended without a sack. But the Frogs really haven't missed a beat defensively since he went down for the year with a foot injury. They still rank 21st in the country in total defense. Terrell Lathan has stepped up nicely to replace Fields, getting four sacks. TCU also likes to blitz linebackers and defensive backs, which confuses opposing quarterbacks and leads to some bad decisions and turnovers. Now the Wildcats will probably have plenty of chances to get after the quarterback too. The Frogs' offensive line play has been abysmal this season. Casey Pachall has had no time to throw the ball since he came back from a broken forearm, and has gotten really beat up. But if he can get some time in the pocket, he can make some really impressive throws.



Matt Jennings

While I'm not sure I agree that giving up fewer than 35 points should be called impressive, the TCU offense has a talent for making opposing defenses look great. The Frogs rank 109th in the FBS in total offense and 94th in scoring offense. Now there have been a couple of bright spots in recent weeks. Pachall's return and better play from receivers have given the passing game a lift, with TCU throwing for 639 yards over the last two games. And with Pachall at quarterback, TCU has been able to utilize Trevone Boykin's athleticism more, playing him at wide receiver and letting him run the ball in third down and goal line situations, a role for which he is well suited. Still, TCU will probably be without starting running backs Waymon James (suspension) and B.J. Catalan (injury). Combine that with the Frogs' inability to block effectively in the run or the pass, and TCU's odds of staying in the hunt for a bowl game this weekend are slim. I think the Wildcats will pull out an ugly, low-scoring win and spoil head coach Gary Patterson's return to his alma mater.



Matt Jennings

Keys to the game: Determining factor comes down to TCU's offense

Nicolas Wahl
staff writer

K-State Take the fight to the Horned Frogs

Along with K-State's return to its winning ways over the last three ballgames has come a renewed offensive identity. They've become an offense that is going to pound opponents with power-running game, like a heavyweight boxer whose repeated body blows slowly kill the will of their opponent.

The Wildcats are averaging 225 yards on the ground during their win streak.

K-State is in for a battle against TCU. The Horned Frogs rank 19th in the nation and second in the Big 12 in average rushing yards allowed. Last year, when the two teams met in Fort Worth, Texas the TCU defensive front frustrated K-State runners all into just 115 yards on 34 carries (3.4 ypc).

"They were very physical.

They were beating us off the ball, to the point of attack. As an offensive lineman it's hard to swallow that pill," junior center B.J. Finney said of last year's game.

This season, though, the Wildcats are looking to take the fight to the TCU defense.

"Physical games are a lot of fun," Finney said. "You want to set the tone and be that unit. We want to be that unit. If we get that established then we have things going in our favor.

Lock your doors and keep being the thief

When the Wildcats were struggling early in the season, much of it could be pointed at a particular area: turnovers. K-State was negative-nine in turnover margin in their first six games. That trend has reversed, and not surprisingly, so has K-State's record. The Wildcats are plus-six in wins over West Virginia, Iowa State and Texas Tech.

Sophomore linebacker

Charmeachealle Moore said he knows the difference a key interception or fumble recovery can make for the defense.

"It lets us know we're playing good ball," Moore said. "It gives us that confidence boost and helps us keep it up."

The Horned Frogs might be ripe for the picking. After starting Big 12 play without a turnover in their first two games, TCU has lost it 19 times in their last five contests. That said, they can pilfer themselves as they lead the Big 12 in take-aways with 25.

TCU Keep your eye on the prize

The Horned Frogs have seen their share of adversity this season. After being picked near the top of the Big 12, TCU has felt the brunt of the injury bug.

Starting quarterback Casey Pachall went down against SE Louisiana and missed time. The defensive line was decimated by the loss of Devonte

Fields, end Matt Anderson, and tackle David Johnson.

Still, TCU head coach Gary Patterson has his team fighting for bowl eligibility. Last week, with both starting running backs out, the Horned Frogs managed a tough 21-17 road-win at Iowa State.

"We're into the third phase of our one-game seasons," Patterson said. "The story is about the same. We have to go on the road and play at a tough place against a team that is also working to be bowl eligible."

K-State can become bowl eligible with a win Saturday, but TCU is still fighting for that chance.

Find the offensive groove

There is talent on the offen-

sive side for the Horned Frogs, but TCU has yet to get on track this season. They're averaging just 16 points a game in Big 12 play and have recently thrust backups into starting roles at running back due to injury and off-the-field issues.

K-State head coach Bill Snyder said he thinks TCU will have more players back than expected, but even if not, he expects those who to play to step up.

"As long as I have been in the game, what I recognize is when the backup gets a chance — that is all he ever wanted was a chance to play — and he steps up," Snyder said. "Young guys get motivated to do that, and it should tell young guys what motivation can really do for

you."

Third-string running back Aaron Green filled in last week with 72 yards on 19 carries. Two players who will certainly be playing are quarterbacks Casey Pachall and Trevone Boykin.

"They have a guy that can throw it with the best of them," Snyder said. "They've got a guy that can run it with the best of them, and he doesn't throw it badly."

Pachall is returning to form averaging over 300 yards passing in his last two games. Boykin did his damage on the ground with three touchdowns and 29 yards on just five carries. He's becoming a weapon in the red zone, and also seeing time at wide receiver.

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Comparing Positions: K-State has offensive edge



Emily DeShazer | Collegian

When comparing wide receivers, the edge goes to K-State senior **Tramaine Thompson**, who has already tied his touchdown total from 2012.



Tate Steinlage

RB B.J. Catalan vs. RB John Hubert

After losing their top two running backs, the TCU ground game has been, well, grounded.

Sophomore B.J. Catalan is injured and No. 2 man, senior Waymon James is suspended. It's been an uphill battle in their absence. TCU mustered just 60 rushing yards against West Virginia two weeks ago, and last week against a porous Iowa State defense the replacements, sophomores Aaron Green and Jordan Moore ran for just 102 yards on 28 carries.

This season TCU is 107th in the nation in rushing, averaging just 120 yards per contest.

The story on the ground has been different for running back John Hubert. The K-State senior started off the year slow behind a shaky Wildcat front-line, only breaking the 60-yard mark once in the team's first five games.

However, Hubert and this Wildcat rushing attack have found their stride in the last four games. In last week's blowout of the Texas Tech Red Raiders, Hubert rushed for an eye-popping 157 yards and one touchdown.

Edge: Based on recent performances, Hubert has the considerable edge. Since K-State's Oct. 5 loss to the Oklahoma State Cowboys, Hubert has rushed for an average of 6.1 yards per carry and has topped the century mark twice. Expect him to have a similar workload this weekend at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

WR Josh Doctson vs. WR Tramaine Thompson

Sophomore wide receiver Josh Doctson has been at the forefront of TCU's spread-out passing scheme. Doctson, who missed one game and didn't play in another, is still on pace to surpass his

2011 receiving total and has become the Horned Frogs lone, consistent deep threat.

In four games alone, Doctson has had a reception of 25-yards or longer, including a 37-yard reception in a loss to West Virginia where the sophomore went for a season-best 92-yards and one touchdown on eight catches.

Senior Tramaine Thompson also missed some key time due to injury this season, but has since come back to help lead this resurgent Wildcat passing attack. Thompson was stellar in K-State's blowout of Iowa State on Nov. 2, hauling in an incredible touchdown late in the game as he was being interfered with.

Edge: With both K-State quarterbacks looking more and more comfortable in the passing game, the edge has to go to Thompson, who has already tied his touchdown total from 2012. Junior Tyler Lockett will still get most of the attention from the Horned Frogs, but don't be surprised to see Thompson continue his recent form.

LB Paul Dawson vs. LB Blake Slaughter

As a junior, Paul Dawson has led this TCU squad on the defensive side of the ball. In 2012, Dawson was more depth than playmaker for the Horned Frogs with just 14 tackles in 13 games — however, in 2013 he's making a case at 75 tackles (37 solo) to earn some post-season Big 12 honors.

Dawson has filled out the stat sheet excellently for TCU through 10 games, notching an interception, nine tackles for loss, and three batted passes. He'll be key in Saturday's matchup if the Horned Frogs want to come in and stop K-State's rushing attack and ultimately steal a crucial win to keep their bowl eligibility chances alive.

While junior Ryan Mueller has deservedly been receiving much of the defensive spotlight, senior Blake Slaughter has been a consistent force for this much improved Wildcat defense.

“[Paul Dawson will] be key in Saturday's matchup if the Horned Frogs want to come in and stop K-State's rushing attack and ultimately steal a crucial win to keep their bowl eligibility chances alive.”

Slaughter is leading all Wildcats with 74 tackles, is second in tackles for loss behind Mueller, and is third in sacks with two on the year. He's been somewhat of a “do it all” kind of player for Snyder's defense, whether that's been taking on blockers, dropping back in pass coverage, or rushing opposing quarterbacks.

Edge: This one is about as close as it gets, but there's a slight edge to Dawson. The Wildcat defense has been spread out this year, gelling on well with one another. TCU, on the other hand, has had its share of troubles with injury, especially recently. Dawson will have to be the cornerstone for their defense Saturday, and to do so he'll have to have another big stat-stuffing performance.

Emily DeShazer | Collegian

K-State senior linebacker **Blake Slaughter** tackles Iowa State sophomore running back **DeVondrick Nealy** on Nov. 2 at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.



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Games of the Week: Huskers take on Spartans



Stanford vs USC
7 p.m. CST on ABC
Stanford (8-1) is a loss at Utah away from being in the national title conversation. Ranked number four in the latest BCS standings, the Cardinal heads south to take on the USC Trojans (7-3). Just a week ago, Stanford shocked college football by holding the high-powered Oregon offense to just 20 points. With one of the best defenses in the country, Stanford head coach Brian Shaw loves to play smash mouth football and try to out-physical teams on both sides of the ball. While the Trojans have some of the most talented players in the country, and are 3-0 since firing Lane Kiffin, I still say the Cardinal leaves LA with a 20-point win.



Georgia vs Auburn
2:30 p.m. CST on CBS
The Auburn Tigers (9-1) are seeing resurgence from last year's awful season. Gus Malzahn has his team peaking at the right time, and could make serious headway in their fight for a BCS Bowl bid with a win at home against Georgia tomorrow afternoon. Auburn, as a team, is better than Georgia. However, the Bulldogs have senior quarterback Aaron Murray, who enters the contest with 115 career touchdown passes and over 12,000 career yards. Head coach Mark Richt is again in the hot seat, but a road victory against a top-10 team could ease the pressure. It will be a tight game, but I say Murray leads a fourth quarter drive that clinches the win 35-31.



Michigan St. vs Nebraska
2:30 p.m. CST on ABC
Michigan State (8-1) is underrated on the national scene. Sparty's only loss came on the road to then-No. 22 Notre Dame, and since then, they have been nearly flawless. In their last three contests, MSU has given up nine total points, and held a ranked Michigan team to 168 total yards and negative-48 yards rushing. Nebraska is good, but Bo Pelini has a knack for flopping when all eyes are on him, and he will likely do it again. Even at home, the Cornhuskers won't be prepared for Michigan State's firepower. Spartans leave Lincoln with a 24-3 win.



Houston vs. Louisville
6 p.m. CST on ESPN
The Cardinals (8-1) are fighting for an American Conference championship, and need a home win against Houston (7-2) to move closer to making that dream a reality. I expect this to be one of the highest scoring affairs in college football all season. Houston and Louisville both have box score stuffing quarterbacks, with junior Teddy Bridgewater being a household name at this point in his career, and John O'Korn impressing everyone as a freshman. There won't be much defense, but I think Louisville gets a big stop when they need it most. Cardinals win 52-45.



Oregon St. vs Arizona St.
8:30 p.m. CST on Pac-12 Network
Oregon State (6-3) hits the road to face Arizona State (7-2) for a Pac-12 game with bowl implications. Depending on final standings, either team could possibly be a K-State foe when bowl selections are announced. The Beavers are second in the country, averaging over 400 yards passing per game and have shown flashes of offensive brilliance at times this season. The Sun Devils have won four straight and are in control of the Pac-12 south thus far. With dreams of a conference championship beginning to take shape, I see no way Arizona State flops against the Beavers. The Sun Devils bend, but don't break, winning 27-21.

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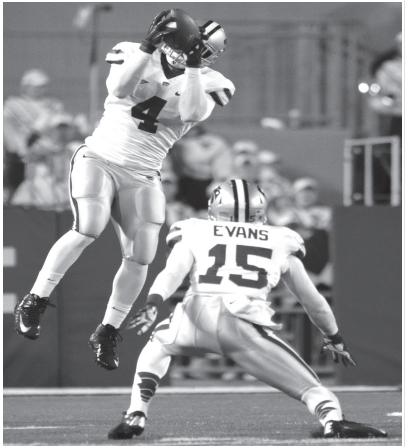
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Can't keep a good Sams down



Emily DeShazer | Collegian

Sophomore quarterback Daniel Sams runs out of the arms of Iowa State defensive end Willie Scott on Nov. 2 at Bill Snyder Family Stadium. The rushing attack will be important for the Wildcats as they face a TCU defense that is known for its ability to stop the run.

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PROFILE

DORRIAN ROBERTS

Austin Earl
staff writer

Senior cornerback Dorrian Roberts is a player that many fans and media members scorned at the beginning of K-State's football season. Since then, Roberts has turned his season around and become a solid defender for the Wildcats.

The low point of the season for the Wildcats and for Roberts was their game against the Texas Longhorns. There were rumblings of dissatisfaction with Roberts before the game, but fans were irate when Texas sophomore wide receiver Kendall Sanders burnt Roberts for a 63-yard touchdown pass.

But now, Roberts has had two interceptions in the last three games. His tackling numbers are also down, which is good because it means receivers aren't catching the ball around him. He also broke up a pass against Texas Tech.

"Dorrian has been a great player," sophomore defensive back Dante Barnett said. "I don't really think he let the media and critics get to him, because he knows he's a great football player himself."

That kind of confidence is essential to becoming a good player. Everyone who's ever played football knows that you will face struggles on the field. Confidence is key to overcoming those struggles, and Roberts has that.

Roberts' confidence may stem from his impressive career in junior college. He



Emily DeShazer | Collegian

Senior cornerback Dorrian Roberts runs back his interception against Iowa State on Nov. 2 at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

was a starting corner back at Hutchinson Community College, where he was major part of a team that finished fifth in the NJCAA after winning the Salt City Bowl. Roberts was first team all-league and first team all-region in his final year in Hutchinson. He was also an honorable mention All-American. He had 55 tackles, with 3.5 for a loss and three interceptions.

After his time in Hutchinson, Roberts transferred to K-State and was a walk-on. He was red-shirted in 2011 and didn't see any playing time in 2012. With no time in a real game in two years, Roberts was destined to struggle early in the 2013 campaign. It's nearly impossible to not do something for two years, then suddenly do it and be great. But with two years in Snyder's system, explosive

improvement was bound to happen.

Improvement only happens when a player wants to improve. It's not magic, it takes hard work in the film room and in practice.

"Dorrian is a guy who will give you 100 percent effort on the practice field," junior linebacker Jonathan Truman said. "[He is] also is a guy that I know is always studying the game,

and so he's a great cornerback, and we love having him out on the field."

Studying the game and practicing hard is what Bill Snyder football is all about. Coach Snyder does a great job of getting his players to focus, and prepare for the game mentally. Having the game plan flawlessly memorized helps a player fly around and read the field better.

"Dorrian's become focused, I'd say more focused," sophomore linebacker Charmichael Moore said. "Reading his keys, not guessing a lot, and playing hard ball, playing good ball and practicing hard."

The rise of Dorrian Roberts has helped K-State's defense improve as a whole. It's not a coincidence that the Wildcats have begun to win games as Roberts has improved. Having another solid cornerback to pair with senior Kip Daily makes the Wildcat secondary much better.

Roberts is one player, but he is a microcosm of the entire defense. The defense was questioned by many fans and media outlets after their lackluster performance early in the season, but they're now forcing more turnovers and have allowed only 45 points in their past three games.

The secondary has been instrumental in holding the leads that K-State's offense has built. Against Iowa State, the Cyclone quarterbacks threw 34 times in their attempt to come back from a big deficit, but K-State only allowed 126 yards through the air. While that's statistically their best game, they have been smothering offenses in the past three games.

Roberts has helped the secondary improve, while silencing his own critics. The defense has started to get praise for their recent success. Now it's time for Dorrian Roberts to get the respect he deserves as well.

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